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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 15 August 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the attached letter from the President of the Serb Civic Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, dated 12 August 1994, addressed to Your Excellency (see annex).

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIC
Ambassador and
Deputy Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 12 August 1994 from the President of the Serb Civic Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the Secretary-General

Being resolute to continue with our engagement concerning a political settlement to the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the only realistic ground for achieving a durable and just peace for the benefit of all citizens and peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Bosniaks-Muslims, Croats and Serbs, we have appealed, in these crucial times for the future of our common country, to the Serb people of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the proclamation attached hereto for your information (see enclosure). We particularly call upon those citizens of Serb nationality, presently in the territory controlled by the Karadžić's regime, to support, for their own and common benefit, the Contact Group's peace plan. The positions of the Serb Civic Council are the following:

1. The peace plan of the Contact Group is accepted as a compromise political settlement.

2. Peace meets both the interests of the majority of citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and a majority of every individual nation, Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs. Ordinary people within the Serb nation desire peace.

3. Bosnia and Herzegovina as a democratic State sees its perspective only in peace.

4. Continuation of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina would bring about new suffering of the civilian population; it would also diminish the possibilities of reintegration of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the war would probably spill over to the entire Balkan region.

5. The additional requirements of the Karadžić's Serbs cannot be accepted. The same refers to the convening of a referendum, because it would result in total failure of the peace process.

6. The Contact Group is encouraged, in the interest of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to maintain its unity in seeking a solution that will halt the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We emphasize, in particular, that Karadžić and the self-proclaimed Pale assembly have no legitimate right to represent all the Serbs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, because only some 600,000, i.e., 45 per cent of the overall figure of 1,300,000 Serbs, who used to live in Bosnia and Herzegovina before the war presently live in the territory under their control. At the same time, some 200,000 Serbs live in the territory controlled by the legal authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, while some 400,000 are refugees, the majority of whom support the positions of the Serb Civic Council.

Therefore, the Serb Civic Council requests, once more, and anticipates its equal participation both in the peace process and in deciding on peace and the future of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(Signed) Mirko PEJANOVIĆ
President

Enclosure

Proclamation of 10 August 1994 from the Serb Civic Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the Serbian People of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The greatest desire and the highest interest of all the citizens and peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina is peace. Recognizing the will of its citizens, the Parliament of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the peace plan of the international community, regardless of its deficiencies. The Serb Civic Council, always being in favour of peace, supports that decision.

By refusing the peace plan accorded between the principal powers of the international community, the self-proclaimed Pale assembly has decided to continue war, pushing all of us into death, destruction, hopelessness and hatred, and into total isolation from the rest of the world. That is fascism. That is neither nor can it be your choice both for your and our future. This must not become our destiny.

Self-proclaimed leaders at Pale employ all their efforts to maintain power, to avoid the court of justice, and keep their war gains. In their blindness, the Pale leaders have even refused the requests of the State authorities of Serbia and Montenegro to approve of the plan. They are not telling you about what might happen in case the peace is not concluded.

To you, the Serbs living under the Karadžić's rule and to us, who live in the territory controlled by the legal authorities of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the history has predetermined equal destiny, that is to live together with our neighbours, Bosniaks-Muslims and Croats. Those who desired unreasonable and impossible separation have initiated this war, killing, destruction, displacement.

Peace is our interest. We are certain that this is your interest too. Life and prosperity of all of us rely, before all, on peace. By approving of the peace plan of the international community, we approval of survival, progress, return to one's home, maintenance of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of equality in that common country of ours.

War has retarded all the peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Peace opens prosperity for life and fast recovery, with the assistance of the international community.

Those who desire war have chosen tragic future.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is our common country, our common destiny. We have to live there, building a humane and civilized society of equal and happy citizens and peoples.